

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Little Pend Oreille NWR  
1310 Bear Creek Road  
Colville, Washington 99114  
Phone: 509/684-8384  
Fax: 509/684-8381  
<http://littlependoreille.fws.gov>

# News Release



For Release on October 6, 2005  
Contact: Lisa Langelier, (509) 684-8384

05-106

## **Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge Provides Economic Benefits Today, Conservation Benefits for Future Generations**

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge generated \$3,658,400 in total economic activity related to refuge recreational use, according to Banking on Nature 2004: The Economic Benefits to Local Communities of National Wildlife Refuge Visitation. The same report, issued during National Wildlife Refuge Week, found that national wildlife refuges are major economic engines for communities, putting almost \$1.4 billion into the economy.

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge generated \$3.82 for every dollar received for the refuge's operations and maintenance budget last fiscal year. Nationally, the \$1.4 billion in total economic activity related to national wildlife refuge recreational use is nearly four times the \$391 million that the Refuge System received in fiscal year 2004 for operations and maintenance.

Moreover, the National Wildlife Refuge System created nearly 24,000 private sector jobs as the \$1.4 billion flowed through the economy, generating about \$454 million in employment income. Additionally, recreational spending on national wildlife refuges generated nearly \$151 million in tax revenue at the local, county, state and federal level.

The national report details findings from 93 national wildlife refuges, including Little Pend Oreille. The National Wildlife Refuge System encompasses nearly 100 million acres and 545 national wildlife refuges. The Banking on Nature 2004 study included money spent for food and refreshments, lodging at motels, cabins, lodges or campgrounds, and transportation when it calculated the total economic activity related to refuge recreational use.

Little Pend Oreille NWR had an estimated 41,000 visitors in 2004. Visitors to the refuge enjoyed hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, horseback riding, and camping as well as other activities. Refuge visitors were relatively equally distributed between residents and non-residents. Refuge visitation is greatest during spring and fall and is a popular destination for deer and turkey hunters.

“Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge provides an economic benefit for our citizens today and ensures benefits to future generations as we strive to be a home for fish and wildlife and a place for people to enjoy our wildlife heritage,” said Project Leader, Lisa Langelier. “We invite everyone to visit the refuge this week and in the future to learn about our wildlife and recreational opportunities.”

Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, covering about 42,000 acres southeast of Colville, is the only mountainous mixed-conifer refuge in the National Wildlife Refuge System, outside of Alaska. Its habitats support many plant and animals species, including 200 birds, 58 mammals, 6 amphibians, 8 reptiles, and numerous fish. Refuge management focuses on restoring forest habitats and creating more stands of large trees using thinning and prescribed fire. With the help of the Friends of Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge, more area residents, including local students, are enjoying educational field trips to the refuge. To learn more about the independent non-profit Friends of LPO, call President Rick Moore at 685-0478 or visit their website [www.refugefriends.com](http://www.refugefriends.com)

"The Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge is a wonderful place to spend a day outdoors. I am proud to support LPO and love bringing my family to explore the refuge and see wildlife," said Scott Price, a Colville resident and member of the Friends of Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge.

During National Wildlife Refuge Week, celebrated October 9-15, many wildlife refuges will feature special events. Additional information, including special events celebrating Refuge Week, is available online at <http://refuges.fws.gov/> For more information about Refuges in the Pacific Region, go to <http://Pacific.fws.gov>

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.